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Amendment Dated 11/21/05
Response to Office Action Dated 07/28/05

Application No. 10/786,697

Remarks

Claims 1-26 are pending with this paper. Claims 1-25 stand are rejected.

Applicant is amending independent claims 1 and 12. Applicant is adding independent claim 26, which is supported by the present patent application as originally filed, e.g., paragraphs 24, 44, and 46 and Figures 1 and 2.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-11 are rejected by the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by US 5,506,910 (Miller).

Applicant is amending claim 1 to clarify what is being claimed. As amended, claim 1 includes the features of "a first channel element that detects a first acoustic feedback component of a first acoustic signal and that processes the first acoustic signal from a first performance microphone to ameliorate the first acoustic feedback component, wherein the first acoustic feedback component corresponds to a first feedback path from at least one speaker to the first performance microphone" and "a second channel element that detects a second acoustic feedback component of a second acoustic signal from a second performance microphone and that processes the second acoustic signal to ameliorate the second acoustic feedback component, wherein the second acoustic feedback component corresponds to a second feedback path from the at least one speaker to the second performance microphone." (Emphasis added.) The amendment is supported by the present patent application as originally filed, e.g. paragraph 22 and Figure 1.

Miller merely discloses an audio path from speaker 36 and reference (ambient) microphone 40 as shown in fig. 1. Similarly, Miller discloses an audio path from speaker 36a to

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microphone 28 (which is positioned in stage section 60 as clarified in fig. 3) and to an audio path from speaker 36b to microphone 28. Reference pickups 40a and 40b (which are positioned in the audience section as clarified in fig. 3) are suitably positioned on the left and right of the auditorium to test the frequency response of the corresponding channel (i.e. channel A or B and not the feedback channels from speakers 36a and 36b to performance (on-stage) microphones 28). Consequently, Miller fails to even suggest a feedback path from at least one speaker to a performance (e.g., an on-stage) microphone.

Claims 2-11 ultimately depend from claim 1 are not anticipated for at least the above reasons. Applicant requests for reconsideration of claims 1-11.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 12-25 are rejected by the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Miller and US 4,177,356 (Jaeger).

Applicant is amending independent claim 12 to include the feature of “detecting, by the first channel element, a first acoustic feedback component, wherein the first acoustic feedback component corresponds to a first feedback path from at least one speaker to a first performance microphone.” (Emphasis added.)

As discussed above, Miller fails to even suggest a feedback path from at least one speaker to a performance microphone. Jaeger fails to make up for the deficiencies of Miller. Thus claim 12 is patentable over Miller and Jaeger.

Because claims 13-25 ultimately depend from claim 12, claims 13-25 are patentable for at least the above reasons. Applicant requests for reconsideration of claims 12-25.

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Conclusions

All objections and rejections have been addressed. Hence, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: November 21, 2005

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